



# The Carlos Family Times

*"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18*

**Together In Mission to Guinea, West Africa**

**November 2011**

## **An Open Door**

It is always a challenge for a follower of Jesus in a predominantly Muslim culture to know how to connect with the people. Many times Muslims don't trust followers of Jesus and perhaps have even been given false information about them. Often for a missionary, the question can be, "How can I share the love of Jesus without a way to connect and encounter the people around me." Well folks, let's just say, we're connected!

God has opened a door for us. He does that you know – and when he does, He expects us to walk 'right on through the door'. We have walked through our open door and make ourselves available to people four days per week for eyeglass exams and consultation/education about other health issues. At first just a few people would come, but soon, we had way more people than we could possibly see in a day and still sleep! Now, we have a bit of a system and we see 7 people each day. Sometimes they will just want their eyes tested for eyeglasses and other times they have other health problems – some of which we can treat and others we have to refer them somewhere else.

We try to spend a good amount of time with each person – we practice speaking Maninka with them by greeting them and asking their name and basic health questions. Whatever their problem might be, we always try to provide them with as much information as possible so that they learn something new or how to prevent something from happening in the future. Of course, we end each visit with prayer.

One day when we were getting ready to pray for one man's health, he interrupted us and asked if we could also pray for his daughter who is 30 years old and not yet married. We were pleasantly surprised by his willingness to share something personal about his life and agreed to pray for his special request. He was so grateful. It had never occurred to us to ask people if they would like to have us pray for something other than their health before. We have now begun to ask people if they have anything else, besides their health, that they would like us to pray about. We have been able to lift many needs up in prayer – all in the Name of Jesus.

Since we have a captive audience on the days when we see people, since they have to wait their turn, we have been brainstorming and praying about what else we might be able to offer in terms exposing them to the Gospel while they are here. There are many ideas being mulled

over – you can pray that God would reveal the right one for us to try next.

This Saturday, November 12, we will be making ourselves available for people just for prayer. No eyeglass testing, no health consultations – just prayer. This is a bit of an experiment – we'll see if anyone shows up. If they do, we know that their prayers and petitions will be brought to 'Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.' Ephesians 3:20



## **Eve**

We get to know a lot of interesting people – we wish you could meet some of them. This past month we have had the pleasure of getting to know a sweet woman named Eve (she is pictured above with Jack). She came to our house one day and as she walked up the stairs to greet us, Jack and I exchanged looks, because we already had a good idea about what her illness was. She had difficulty moving, her face was expressionless, she had a tremor in her left hand and her head. She has advanced Parkinson's Disease. This really hit home for Jack, since he was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's Disease about two years ago. He said he felt like he was 'looking his future in the face'. Even though Eve had received a correct diagnosis, the medicines she was taking were not sufficient to treat her symptoms and she was really suffering.

We talked to her about the cause and symptoms of Parkinson's Disease and told her about the best medicine

she can take. She said she would try to find it. In the meantime, we really wanted her to have some of the medicine to see if it would relieve some of her symptoms. We quickly counted Jack's meds and made sure he had enough and gave her some to try. Within a few days, she was feeling much better.

Many of you prayed that she would be able to find the medicine. It took some time, but she has found it, in the neighboring country, Mali. Praise God! She is taking it and it is making a huge difference in how she feels. We told her that there were many people praying for her in the US and she was so touched by that news. She wanted us to thank all of you.

Today, she brought her husband and daughter by to meet us. They brought us a huge sack of oranges as a gift. Before they left, she asked us to pray for them – and we did, with pleasure.

## US Speaking Schedule

The dates for our visit to the US have changed slightly. We will now be departing on November 20 and returning on January 20. Below is a list of our speaking engagements. We want to thank our friends and family who will be welcoming us into their homes while we are in the US (you know who you are). We hope to see many of you while we are on your side of the world!

- Wed, Nov 30 – Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN
- Sun, Dec 4 – Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville, MN
- Wed, Dec 7 – Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN
- Sun, Dec 11 – Life in Christ Lutheran Church, Albertville, MN
- Mon, Dec 19 – MN South District Office
- Sun, Jan 1 – Redeemer Lutheran Church, Englewood, FL
- Wed, Jan 3 – Sarasota, FL Circuit Meeting
- Sat, Jan 7 – Sun, Jan 15 – Kansas District

## Stay Connected—Support our Work

Thanks so much for your continued financial and prayer support! We thank God for you!

We want to share that we are not on track to meet our budget this fiscal year. If you feel moved to make a contribution to support the Lord's work in Guinea that we have been called to, we would greatly appreciate it.

- Click "Give Now" on our website [www.carlostribe.wordpress.com](http://www.carlostribe.wordpress.com) or send a gift to (write "Carlos Support" on your check):  
LCMS World Mission  
Missionary Support  
PO Box 790089  
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089

To receive our "e-newsletter" & prayer updates, email us at [carlostribe@gmail.com](mailto:carlostribe@gmail.com)

## From Wisconsin

Raymond & Hannah are well into the school year and are super busy with classes and work. It has been a great blessing for them to be at the same University again this year. They are enjoying classes and have created some beautiful pieces of art once again. Hannah recently declared a French minor – I think there is some travel in her future. We are thrilled that we will be able to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with them this year! We can't wait!

## Please pray...

- For our 'prayer experiment' this Saturday – that those who come would be blessed with prayer and feel the love of Jesus
- For Eve, as she lives with Parkinson's Disease, that she may always be able to find the necessary medication to help manage her illness
- For complete healing for a friend from Raymond & Hannah's English Class here in Siguiri who is suffering from a mental illness of some kind. (Previously, his family had him chained up at home because they didn't know what else to do.) He has since been released, is still with his family, but he is doing better.
- For Raymond & Hannah as they continue their studies
- For safe travel to and around the US
- For Jack's health and for the various doctor visits we have scheduled in the US – that new meds and strategies can be found to help him manage his Parkinson's Disease
- Thanksgiving that we will be able to spend the holidays with our families.



Jack & Cathy Carlos are missionaries to the Maninka people of Guinea, West Africa



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